

## Daily Eagle

## THE VIGIL OF ADAM.

Far in Asia, south the legend,  
On a peak whose nameless towers  
Use the plains a hundred miles off  
For the vigil of Adam.

Where the tallest Himalaya  
Rises and becomes so lonely,  
Whence the eagle swoops in terror,  
And the stars of God are only;

Siteth one of ancient sages,  
One more strange than aught below him,  
One who lived so near to God once,  
That for aye we scarce should know him;

Far above the busy world tribes,  
Miles above the pine trees, leading,  
Lonely as when God first made him,  
There he keepeth watch unending.

—Dr. S. W. Mitchell.

## MR. MOUSER'S SAWBUCK.

Mr. Mouser and his merry little wife occupied a charming cottage in the suburbs of a large city in the "Fatherland." His business connections were of such a nature that he was usually at leisure after 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Mr. Mouser prided himself on being a man of originality and brains. Mr. Mouser also liked a little joke, at other people's expense.

It was autumn. Mr. Mouser had just laid in a good supply of winter fuel. Wood was chiefly used for this purpose in the land of Mr. Mouser's birth.

Sitting by the window of his cozy living room, enjoying a royal smoke from the long stemmed porcelain pipe, Mr. Mouser watched the wood sawyer play his trade, made easy by long habit of handling wood and saw.

Mr. Mouser gazed and pondered an idea crept into his head. It was grasped—as ideas quickly become captive there.

"Lizbeth," said he to his wife, "it is singular I never thought of it before—I generally think of such things—but it strikes me that I could saw that wood myself."

"Gracious! what an idea!"

"A bright one, isn't it? A big saving, too! Just see with what ease it is done—the man cuts through the sticks as if he were slicing bread and butter; besides, I require more exercise; my health is not what it has been."

"Why, dear, do you feel ill?"

"No, no, but a man needs to exert himself if he does not wish to run down in muscular power. My habits are too confining; a sense of the fact has been growing on me lately. But I have solved the difficulty while watching that man play on his sawbuck."

A merry twinkle of the eyes and a laudable endeavor to maintain a serious expression would have convinced the holder that Lizbeth also had ideas, but like a properly respectful wife she kept them to herself until called for.

"Do you think, Lizbeth, that a little gentle muscular activity is what I need to stimulate appetite?"

"You might just as well ask me to do some less tiresome work than wood-sawing," replied Mrs. Mouser.

"Oh, you underestimate my capacities, my dear. And sawing wood is not such hard work. Come and see how simply it is done, yet how every muscle is brought into play. I am enchanted with my idea, and shall carry it out. The man can finish this job, but it shall be the last I ever pay for."

Mr. Mouser meant business. He at once ordered the very best kind of a sawbuck made. He purchased a splendid saw, with sharp teeth and a light frame. He pruned about, happy as a schoolboy, with data of yellow and green paint splattered all over his person, until finally the saw frame suited him in its bright light coat. The sawbuck he painted a lovely light green.

Daily he promenade impatiently around the sheds where the wood was stored, and grumbled because the fuel lasted so unusually long. At intervals he added another coat of green paint to the highly decorated sawbuck. "Sawbuck" it is called sometimes, and bade all his acquaintances and friends come and inspect his patent calisthenic toys, until every one for miles around became familiar with Mr. Mouser's green sawbuck.

At last the longed for day arrived. A big load of fine hickory had been piled up in close proximity to the tools of destination.

Mr. Mouser was all excitement. He passed by his amused wife with important disdain, and scarcely gave himself time to devour his dinner, he was so eager to be at work.

"Nothing more, thanks," he replied, as his wife wished to replenish his cup. Kneeling, he hastened to handle his pets with an ardor that caused Lizbeth to smile knowingly as she watched him pick out the very smallest and most slender cord sticks.

This was a great mistake on Mr. Mouser's part. He should have tackled the difficult ones first, on the simple but fruitful theory that custom would have sweetened his toil with the balm of greater ease.

My! how the saw rent and the abbreviated sticks tumbled to the ground! Still Lizbeth, who was peeping with laughter brimming eyes, noticed that at the third cord stick work seemed to slacken just a trifle, but seven were finished, and Mr. Mouser came in, declaring he felt glorious.

The second day Mr. Mouser remained at table a trifle longer. Four cord sticks in broken lengths licked the dust, however.

Third day—Mr. Mouser took time to glance over The Daily News after dinner. Record: Three cord sticks.

"Lizbeth," said he, "I think I've been cheated in the sawbuck. It is not put together on as practical a plan as I was led to believe. It wriggles."

Fourth day—Mr. Mouser toyed over his dinner extensively. He smoked his pipe and read the paper. He glanced over his monthly magazine until dark, and then started up, exclaiming:

"Mercy! how short the days are!"

Mrs. Mouser enjoyed the situation intensely, but said never a word.

Fifth day—Mr. Mouser rose with a sense of injustice resting upon him. All day he was haunted by the outrageous fact that made him the owner of a sawing jack.

"My dear, we require more wood than usual today and are washing and ironing days, you know," said Mrs. Mouser as soon as he got home.

"I never saw anything like the way you women manage to consume fuel!" and Mr. Mouser grabbed his hat and strode angrily toward the woodpile. A few sticks fell before the savage manipulation of the saw, while Mr. Mouser's snarling kept excellent time to the wild motions of the sawyer.

With a crash he sent the saw flying over the woodpile. This was too much. His wife was in the position of a slave during the few moments he could call his own free from business drudgery. But if he gave up he would never near the last of it. On, on, on, he could only get rid of that sawbuck.

A long time he pondered, at last a smile of joy illumined his face. That night, after his wife had retired, Mr. Mouser slipped off and carried that hated green object to the front gate. Presto! in the morning the corpse would be gone. The highway was full of robbers, who would steal anything, but Mr. Mouser would make a big fuss about the

loss, but take good care not to buy a second sawbuck.

He slept the sleep of the just until about 4 o'clock in the morning. It was still dark, but his anxiety to assure himself of the loss of his trouble caused him to sneak out and reconnoiter. The sawbuck was still there. Mr. Mouser whispered—not a prayer. "Oh, well, there is time enough still between this hour and daylight for a theft to be committed," he muttered. It was the voice of Mrs. Mouser that awakened him in time for breakfast.

He glanced out of the window the first thing. Oh, how brightly the sun shone, and the sawbuck gleamed up at him in all its verdant beauty. No robber had had carried it away. A fearful sigh escaped the Mouser bosom.

"You must saw some wood for me before you go, dear," said his wife.

"What, more wood?"

"Yes, dear, recollect you only sawed one stick last evening," rejoined Mrs. Mouser meekly, but a wicked gleam of mischief played about her eyes and mouth.

Mr. Mouser ignored her reply, and hastened to town with his pretty tools with a vigor born of awful fury, but way down in his soul a voice groaned, that sawing jack must go!

Where? whence? how? a man of resources. Twelve o'clock, midnight. A burglarish darkness and silence brooded around as a man stole hence from his couch, and, grabbing his trousers, left a cozy bedroom.

A little later the only other active creature about, a feline prima donna, might have witnessed a sorry sight: a solitary man marching toward, clutching in his strong right hand a beautifully painted green sawing jack.

Soon he returned. The sawing jack, where was it?

Mr. Mouser rose that morning in a most delightful frame of mind.

"Lizbeth, my dear little Lizbeth," he exclaimed, friskily, "I am going to work in earnest today. I am feeling fine, much better than I have for some time. Here, feel this arm. Here's that for you, eh? That's what sawing wood has done."

Lizbeth blinked sadly, but looked contented. Mr. Mouser hastened out to "flip off a stick or two before breakfast," but soon came in looking quite angry and puzzled.

"What in the world has become of that jack?" It was gone. "Such infamy—to steal one's very implements of toil!" he cried in a rage, as he sent for the old wood sawyer again.

Mr. Mouser, of course, grieved over his loss. He managed to conquer the regret sufficiently to display some of his old wit and mirth.

But this good feeling received a sudden check the morning after the burglary of the "jack."

He had just opened the daily paper, when his glance was arrested by a leading paragraph.

"Lizbeth, look at this!"

Mrs. Mouser became alarmed. Her husband was pale as death and trembling in every limb as he handed her the paper. She read:

"The residence of the Hon. Oliver was broken into night before last and a large sum of money and valuable plate and jewelry stolen. \* \* \* The robbers entered by the garden window, from which they removed the iron grating, while standing on a singular looking wooden object, recognized by old-fashioned country folks as a 'sawbuck.' It is painted a light green, and will doubtless prove a valuable clue toward tracing the miscreants. A thousand dollars reward is offered for return of jewelry or information leading to the arrest of the robbers."

"Why this is splendid! You can at once notify the authorities that the 'jack' is yours—the thieves who carried it off!"

"Oh, my—oh, my!" groaned Mr. Mouser. "Don't talk to me about thieves—I may be arrested any moment when they discover me!"

"Discover what? How can they arrest an innocent man because he owns an article stolen from him and used by wicked folk?"

"Oh, Lizbeth, I may not even be able to prove an alibi. Oh, what shall I do! I tell you, I am entirely innocent!"

"Ah! we nab you confessing, my fine bird," a voice here interrupted, followed by the entrance of the maid of justice.

Mrs. Mouser begged, cried, stormed and implored. Mr. Mouser was mute and totally crushed, but the bold minions of authority led him away to a dungeon, where he languished for two days, before his friends could obtain a hearing for him. In the meantime the real culprits had been caught, but the law required an explanation of the language that appeared to the police like a question of complicity, notwithstanding Mr. Mouser's unquestionable social standing and perfect respectability.

The court room was crowded with his friends and neighbors. His wife gazed at him tearfully and lovingly, but Mr. Mouser was very much cast down. There was no escape. He had to tell how distasteful wood sawing had proved to him, how he feared the ridicule of wife and friends if after all the boasting he gave it up. But when he related his midnight elopement with his green sawing jack, even the court joined in the broad smile that ripened into a roar of laughter from the less "ignited" listeners. The criminal humiliation came, however, when he left the prison for the coach to be taken home. There he saw the green abomination resting at the driver's feet on the front of the carriage. His wife had not stopped laughing at his midnight adventure.

Adapted from the German, by Mrs. Miles H. McNamara in Boston Budget.

Meaneat Man on Record.

The meaneat man on record jumped aboard a Woodward avenue car the other afternoon. Every seat was occupied, and what did that man do but look out of a window and whisper something about a dog fight. Of course, no man could keep his seat under such a provocation. When Brown had looked in vain for the dog fight, he also looked in vain for his seat. It was completely hidden by that mean man, who was so deeply interested in his paper as to be wholly oblivious of everything else. But Brown had his revenge. A lady soon entered, and before any one could offer her a seat, he punched up the mean man and said:

"Will you please give this lady a seat, sir?"

Then they hung on to the straps and glowered at each other until their brows ached.—Detroit Free Press.

Good Health on the Congo.

The old saying that "beefsteak is better medicine than quinine" is receiving able support from many white men on the Congo. Stanley regarded Boma as a particularly unhealthy place, but it has lost a part of its bad reputation since cattle were introduced and European vegetables began to thrive in the gardens. The thirty white men at this settlement have not been called upon to attend the funeral of a European for a year. Their hard has multiplied until they are able to have fresh meat on their table every day, which they think is a great improvement on the tinned meats and canned vegetables upon which Stanley and his followers relied for strength to lay the foundations of the Congo enterprise.—New York Sun.

The ravages of a new grown bug are causing a steady and increasing decline in coffee production in Ceylon.

## GENTLEMEN EMIGRANTS.

## WHY MANY YOUNG BRITONS GO TO AMERICA.

## An English View of the Matter—Why British Youngsters Take Kindly to the Farm—From a Social Standpoint—The Outcome.

It must be borne in mind that the young American and Canadian of the more educated class thoroughly despise farming, and the sentiment is echoed among those sons of the soil who are, or think they are, too "smart" to plow and sow. Land there has no prestige, no attraction of the kind it has in this country. This feeling against farming is partly genuine ambition and partly mere vulgar snobbishness, and the provincial press is continually noting and deploring its existence. The rural "back" beyond the Atlantic would far sooner sell ribbons or sausages across the counter than work upon his father's farm or even upon a good one of his own. Store keeping, except in some parts of the south, is the eyes of society in a country town, a higher pursuit, altogether, more refined occupation than the cultivation of the broadest of acres. This is not, considering the conditions of transatlantic life, wholly unnatural, and is in some sort a reaction from the rough pioneering life of preceding generations.

The stout young British Briton, however, starts upon the continent the reverse. He has as much occasion for towns, for high stools and shopkeeping as his American friends have for farming, and entirely fails, though he may be foolish, to agree with the latter that a position behind the counter of an ironmonger or bootmaker, or a more refined occupation than the cultivation of the broadest of acres. This is not, considering the conditions of transatlantic life, wholly unnatural, and is in some sort a reaction from the rough pioneering life of preceding generations.

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horse ring out on the pavements of a city. As the summer sun dries the desert mud, the calls that the waters bring to the surface in solution are left behind, and gradually accumulate until they are several inches thick, and make the deserts appear as if covered with snow. This illusion is especially marked when one traverses the deserts by moonlight.

During the long, hot days of summer, when the dome of blue is above the deserts without a cloud, the strange delusive mirage transforms the landscape beyond all recognition, and makes it appear tenfold more strange and weird than it is in reality. At such times bright clear lakes, with rippling surfaces and white fringed banks, allure the unwary traveler, and would lead him to destruction should he believe them real. The mountains around the desert are also deformed by the mirage and made to assume the most extravagant and fantastic shapes.

During hot summer days the monotony of the desert is varied by dust columns, formed by small whirlwinds, which sometimes reach such magnitudes as to be decidedly uncomfortable to the traveler who chances to be in their path. Many times these columns are 2,000 or 3,000 feet in height, and have an approximate diameter of from thirty to fifty feet. The fact that they are hollow, whirling columns of dust is indicated, even from a distance, by their spiral appearance and by a light line in the center of each.

These bending and swaying columns moving here and there across the desert landscape, impart a novel feature to the plain, and call to mind the great Arabian tales. Such is the life of the deserts of the far west during the arid season. In winter they change and become impassable mud plains.—Larzel C. Russell in Overland Monthly.

Emma Abbott on "Artistic Sense."

"Can you define the artistic sense?" to which you referred?"